



MEMBER NEWS

ELECTION SPECIAL

NHS

Airedale

NHS Foundation Trust

We are starting our 2023 elections for seats available on our Council of Governors.

This 'election special' tells you everything you need to know about the elections, what Governors do and how to put yourself forward as a candidate or how to vote for someone.

Airedale – including the hospital and community services – is a Foundation Trust. This means local people have a bigger say in how the Trust works, via the Council of Governors.

Members choose Governors to represent them. When Governor seats are vacant or due for re-election, elections are held and members can put themselves forward as a candidate. Members then vote for a candidate to represent the area they live in (public members) or to represent their staff group (staff members).

We would love to see more people coming forward to be Governors, so that we can better represent the communities we serve.



2023 elections

All areas where our patients and public live are divided into constituencies. Each year we have elections for a number of public and staff seats. The following constituencies have elections this year:

Constituency	Local Authority electoral areas
Bingley	Bingley
Craven	Craven
Rest of England	Outside catchment areas
Settle and Mid-Craven	Settle and Ribblesbanks, Gargrave and Malhamdale, Hellifield and Long Preston, Pen y Ghent, Bentham, Ingleton and Clapham

Our staff are also divided into constituencies, depending on their profession. This year's staff seats up for election are:

Staff constituency	Groups included
Allied Health Professionals and Scientists	All registered allied health professionals, and healthcare scientists
Doctors and Dentists	Doctors and dentists registered with their regulatory body to practice



Join us

To stand as a Governor you must first be a Foundation Trust member and be aged 16 or over. Membership is free and is open to everyone aged 14 or above, living in the community that the Trust serves. You can join by:

- Applying via our online form: <https://secure.membra.co.uk/Join/Airedale>
- Emailing us on anhsft.members@nhs.net
- Phoning 01535 294540, or
- Writing to us at: Foundation Trust Membership Office, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Airedale General Hospital, Skipton Road, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6TD.

All Trust staff are automatically opted-in as members, although to be a Staff Governor, you must have been continuously employed by the Foundation Trust or one of its subsidiaries for at least 12 months.

What do Governors do?

The main duties of the Council of Governors are:

- To appoint and remove the Chair and Non-Executive Directors of the Board and approve the appointment of the Chief Executive
- To hold the Non-Executive Directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board of Directors
- To represent the views of members, public and staff in the governance of the Trust
- To regularly feedback information about the Trust, its vision and its performance to its members, the public and the stakeholder organisations that either elected or appointed them

You can find out more about becoming a Governor on the Trust website:

www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/about-us/governors-and-membership



Why become a Governor?

This is a great role for you if you:

- Have an interest in your local hospital
- Are a current/former patient or family member
- Would like to contribute to the development of the Trust's priorities
- Would like to help the Trust listen to and respond to the interests and needs of the communities it serves



If you'd like to know more, speak to one of our current Governors; they'll be happy to discuss it with you.

How do I put myself forward as a potential Governor?



It's simple!

1. Ensure you're a Foundation Trust member (see 'Join Us' section).
2. Wait for your Notice of Election letter, which all members receive (staff will receive theirs by email).
3. Fill in your nomination form – either online or by sending it back by post to the election company – no later than 7 March 2023.



Election timetable



Questions?

Visit the Governors section of the Trust website:

www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/about-us/governors-and-membership

Contact our Membership Office:

Email: anhsft.members@nhs.net

Phone: 01535 294540

Write to us at: Foundation Trust Membership Office,
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Airedale General Hospital,
Skipton Road, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6TD.